



State of Connecticut

SENATE

STATE CAPITOL

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

Senator Tony Guglielmo
Thirty-Fifth Senate District

CHIEF DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER

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Public Hearing Testimony
February 17, 2015
Labor and Public Employees Committee
Tony Guglielmo, State Senator 35th District

RE: Senate Bill 444 An Act Concerning Secretaries in State Correctional Facilities

Senator Winfield, Representative Tercyak, Ranking Members Hwang and Rutigliano and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding SB 444 An Act Concerning Secretaries in State Correctional Facilities

Proposed Senate Bill 444 seeks to amend the current definition of "hazardous duty employee" to include administrative assistants working in state correctional facilities for purposes of determining their pensions.

I am a strong supporter of this legislation because the administrative assistants and clerical employees face many of the same exposures as the corrections officers and therefore should be on a level playing field with those officers. I represented the 35th district for 22 years and throughout that time my constituents in the clerical classifications have repeatedly expressed the unfairness of their current retirement classification. Unfortunately, the disparity has never been addressed.

I realize not all administrative assistants and clerical employees working inside our state's correctional facilities are in harm's way but those that are should be given the same benefits as the corrections officers whom they serve beside. I have spoken to many line correction officers over the years and they agree with this premise. The Labor Committee has the experience and knowledge to craft legislation in such a way that it would help those administrative assistants and clerical employees, mostly women, who come in direct contact with inmates and separate those employees that do not come into direct contact with inmates. I believe that would be a sensible solution to a very serious discrepancy.

In closing, I would like to thank the co-chairs for their willingness to raise SB 444 this session. I sincerely hope that the committee looks favorably on this bill so that it can make its way through the legislative process.

Thank you.